

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 19

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to urge the United States Congress to enact legislation that will make state child abuse registries public records.

WHEREAS, in Tennessee, the Department of Children's Services maintains the official Child Abuse Registry, which includes the names of people who have been substantiated as perpetrators of child abuse or neglect; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Registry is to protect children from persons who have been identified as perpetrators of child abuse or neglect; a person's name is not placed on the Registry until all reviews or hearings have concluded or the person has waived their right to due process; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Children's Services may release the name of a person who is listed on the Registry only to other state agencies or organizations due to the nature of the employment or licensing of the person as statutorily required in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, due to prohibitive federal rules and regulations, the general public does not have access to the Child Abuse Registry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge the United States Congress to enact legislation to make state child abuse registries public records.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.